



The HealthBeat

February 26, 2013

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Monthly Newsletter for the Employees of Public Health - Seattle & King County

Free flu vaccine clinics a huge success

Public Health staff provided free flu vaccines to 2,075 uninsured King County residents at a series of clinics held at Federal Way, Columbia, Eastgate and North Public Health Centers in January and February.

"We vaccinated more than twice our previous all-time high during our annual flu vaccination exercises," said Michael Loehr,



North Flu Clinic Team: Sara Rosado, Kal Torres, Ian Jorgansen, Deborah DeQuier-Bowden and Marisol Gonzalez.

Emergency Management Manager for Public Health. Along with the rest of the nation, King County experienced an early flu season compared to recent years. Influenza activity is decreasing currently but remains high and is expected to continue into spring.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the clinics possible!

Have a question about public health and human services integration work?

Do you have questions about the work happening in Public Health and the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to better integrate health and human services in King County? Directed by a King County Council motion and budget proviso, this work is an opportunity to use the

upcoming changes associated with health reform to improve services for King County residents.

We'll share information at key milestones, but feel free to reach out to [Erika Nuerenberg](#) with questions in the meantime.

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program highlighted by Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice recently featured the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program as a successful multi-agency collaboration.

Read the complete story [here](#).

Restaurant inspector comes to the aid of a lost child

Joe Kurilla had just wrapped up a restaurant inspection at a Quiznos in Federal Way when he saw a young boy near the road crying and waving his hands. When Joe stopped to help him, the little boy said he was a first grader who left his school (without their knowledge) to go home and was lost. The little boy didn't know the name

of his school or his phone number and needed help. Joe called 911 from his cell phone and stayed with the little boy until two Federal Way police officers arrived. The police officers were able to track down the boy's mother and the family was reunited. Thank you, Joe, for going above and beyond the call of duty!

Interested in becoming a SharePoint Early Adopter?

In 2013, Public Health will roll out SharePoint (a Microsoft product offering an array of tools for facilitating online team work) collaboration sites that will improve efficiency and effectiveness between project participants and facilitate cross-divisional work.

Many of you may already know that SharePoint functionality has been very effective at posting and sharing information and documents. This added functionality, collaboration sites, are shared online workspaces that will be used to develop projects, create documents, and edit information. The SharePoint collaboration sites project will start on a small scale, with a limited number of staff trained as subject matter experts to manage a small number of early adopter sites.

Beginning in March, subject matter experts will be trained on common SharePoint features for this initial SharePoint development effort. In April, following the training, the new project sites will launch, including sites for Public Health work focused on health reform, gun violence prevention and family planning health education.

Are you interested in being an early adopter project on a SharePoint collaboration site? If so, here are the steps you'll need to take:

- Identify a subject matter expert (SME). SMEs will need to attend 12 hours of training before a site can go live. As with all training opportunities, please check with your supervisor or manager before moving forward. Consider whether you or your SME has the time to attend 12 hours of training, develop the

site, and assist all end users related to the Site's purpose.

- If after thoughtful consideration you've been approved to be an early adopter, visit www.kingcounty.gov/About/Desktop/NewSite. For the "Collection in which your site will reside" question (#2), please select "https://kc1.sharepoint.com/teams/ PHc/" from the drop-down menu (note the "c" at the end—it's important!). Completed requests will be reviewed by division leadership. [Christopher Jones](#), Project Manager, will follow-up on all approved requests to schedule trainings.

The first early adopters have already signed up to be trained in March. There are still slots available for April trainings. Subject matter experts will need to attend four, three-hour training sessions on April 8, 10, 15 and 17. The sessions emphasize best practices for realizing the most value from SharePoint, plus the fundamentals of using its features. If you're interested in signing up for trainings to become a subject matter expert, please first check with your manager and then contact Christopher Jones, PH's Project Manager for SharePoint, with further questions.

Stay tuned for more information on SharePoint 2010 Online in the coming months.

Policy reminder: What is special duty?

Special duty, sometimes known as “out of class,” is an assignment that places a regular employee (not an STT, TLT, or probationary employee) in a different position or doing a different body of work on a temporary basis. For example, a Human Resources Analyst could fill in for a Human Resources Senior Analyst who was going to be out on an extended leave as a special duty assignment. A special duty assignment may also be created because of a new, temporary body of work such as a special project.

An employee does not give up his/her regular status when they go into a special duty. Typically, the special duty will mean a temporary new title and slightly higher pay. Pay is determined either by the provisions of a labor agreement or the policy on special duty. Supervisors are encouraged to think about all the different possibilities for filling a special duty. At times, it makes sense to offer a new opportunity as a special duty to existing staff and then if needed backfill the other position with a TLT. Supervisors should make every effort to allow staff to perform a special duty position whether in their own sec-

tion, another section or division, or even another department. We all benefit when staff gain new skills and experiences.

Often, we will post special duty opportunities, and you will see information about them in the HealthBeat. Supervisors should consider posting these opportunities whenever they can. Transparency is a good practice when it comes to opportunity. The request for a special duty is initiated in PeopleSoft by the supervisor.

The policies on special duty can be found on the [Human Resources website](#). If you have questions about special duty, contact your Human Resources Analyst or Service Delivery Manager.

HR Bulletins

- [Assignment to and Pay for Special Duty and Lead Worker](#)
 - o [Attachment 1 - Special Duty Request or Extension Form](#)
 - o [Attachment 2 - Special Duty Employee Agreement](#)
 - o [Attachment 3 - Lead Worker Form](#)

Upcoming events

More Public Health lunch brownbag series lectures/webinars for 2013!

This lunchtime series is designed to share current department initiatives and emerging ideas, encourage cross-division collaboration, and provide an informal forum for staff to interact. Join us at the Chinook Building (Rooms 121/123) or via webinar from noon to 1 p.m. Webinar link information changes each month and can be found on flyers posted in the ninth to 13th floor Chinook Building lunch/copy rooms or by emailing [Julia Cordero](#).



Other events

Monday, March 11 Healthcare Provider CPR/AED classes

9:00 a.m. to noon **or** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Chinook building, Room 126

The Healthcare Provider class is required for licensed Public Health staff. Licensed staff from all PH sites seeking both new and renewal Healthcare Provider training

may register. The courses include Adult, Child, Infant CPR, Choking, and use of Bag-mask and AED. This class does not provide First Aid. Em-

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employees must register in advance by emailing [Andrew Burns](#), EMS Division.

Wednesday, March 13

Cracking the codes: Premiere film screening and community conversation

6:30 p.m.

Seattle University, Campion Ballroom

Thursday, March 14

Understanding the system of racial inequality workshop

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.

Seattle University, Campion Ballroom

The new film "[Cracking the Codes](#)" is coming to Seattle. From Shakti Butler, the director of "The Way Home: Women Talk About Race in America" and "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible," comes a new film that asks America to talk about the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. The main organizer is Seattle University's Center for the Study of Justice in Society.

Saturday, March 23

Citizen University: A Conference on the Art of Great Citizenship

Seattle Center

Join hundreds of change makers, organizers, teachers, social entrepreneurs, and artists from across America for an exceptional full-day event that catalyzes connection, learning, and action.

For more information, click [here](#).

April 10-13

14th Annual White Privilege Conference: The color of oney: Reclaiming our humanity

Double Tree by Hilton Seattle Airport, SeaTac

For information, click [here](#).

Safety and Health Classes (ongoing)

A variety of safety training courses are available free of charge to King County employees, supervisors and management teams. These sessions are given regularly at our training facility in Building 7300 at the King County International Airport at Boeing Field, as well as in the Chinook Building and the King Street Center in downtown Seattle. Classes can also be given in most cases onsite in department work settings.

All classes are taught by our Occupational Education and Training Program Administrators, Tammy Harris and Karen Bert. Tammy can be reached at 206-205-5661 or through [e-mail](#). Karen can be reached at 206-205-5683 or through [e-mail](#). To sign up for a class, simply contact either of them. To see list of classes, click [here](#).

Please note: These classes are available to King County employees only.

Public Health in the news



[2012 Seattle homicides part of violent trend](#)

[Bill requires city vending machines be stocked with healthy snacks](#)

[Constantine directs public health to develop innovative](#)

[strategies to prevent gun violence](#)

[Deputies and dispatchers recognized for lifesaving efforts](#)

[Female inmate found dead in King County WA Jail](#)

[First-time, low-income mothers get help from successful Nurse-Family Partnership](#)

[Flu season killing record number of older Americans, CDC says](#)

[Gun range sued by former employees for alleged lead exposure](#)

[Gun violence: A public health crisis](#)

[How did the Seattle buyback turn into a flea market for guns?](#)

[How HIPAA hampers text messages for health](#)

[Inslee names three more to Cabinet](#)

[King County launches study on youth gun deaths](#)

[King County plan to get health coverage for all](#)

[King County Public Health report on gun violence](#)

[Legislators taking second look at background checks for gun buyers](#)

[Many King County grocery stores fail health inspections](#)

[More than 40 die from flu in state, and it isn't over](#)

[New director named for Northwest Center for Public Health Practice](#)

['Now is the time': Constantine's State of the County address includes call for gun-violence prevention](#)

[Pot legalization increases adult addicts' concern for teens](#)

[Primary care and population health](#)

[Public health at forefront of King County's gun initiative](#)

[Putting a face on human trafficking](#)

[Six thousand King County children live in homes where firearms are stored loaded and unlocked—and other details from Public Health's gun violence report](#)

[State lawmakers alter gun bill to ease privacy concerns](#)

[The public needs a healthy dose of gun safety](#)

[The real reason no one buys produce in low-income areas](#)

['Universal background check' bill has problems, say rights activists](#)

[Washington's Clean Indoor Air Act under attack](#)

Leave donation requests

Any employee eligible for leave benefits may donate a portion of his/her accrued vacation or sick leave to another employee eligible for leave benefits.

Sick leave donations are limited to a maximum of 25 hours donated in a calendar year and the donating employee must have a minimum of 100 hours of accrued sick leave remaining after the donation.

Vacation leave donations do not have this limitation – the donating employee can contribute up to his/her total accrued vacation leave.

All donations, both vacation and sick leave, revert to the donor if they are not used within 90 calendar days.

[You may donate accrued vacation or sick leave by completing this form.](#)

The following staff are on extended leave and would appreciate donations from King County staff:

- **Sueanne Brent**, Jail Health Services
- **Grayson Eudy**, Columbia Public Health
- **Amy Garvey**, Jail Health Services
- **Michelle Herring**, Food & Facilities
- **Trina Hoston**, Columbia Public Health
- **Della Lorenzen**, Downtown Public Health
- **Jeannette McCarty**, CHS
- **Patty Padden**, North Public Health
- **Effie Roberson**, Eastgate Public Health
- **Tamara Stewart**, TB Program
- **Lora Warnes**, Prevention
- **Wendy Wheeler**, Renton Public Health

Kudos

George Hampton, TB Program

Thank you for always being so kind and positive each and every day we see you. No matter how busy, hectic or chaotic our day seems to be, you come through our door with a smile on your face. Thank you endlessly for that. You've made an unpleasant task very easy! Thank you for what you give!

~A grateful client

Annie Phare, Injury Prevention Program

Thank you for showing me around the Public Health offices. It was great to see the diverse units working to implement their respective public health measures into county policy. While every group had a specific goal, all were working together toward the common goal of improving the quality of life for King County's citizens.

I was inspired by the Target Zero project, particularly with the optimism and passion of everyone involved. After visiting the University of Washington's School of Public Health, where much of the health science research is focused on infectious disease, it was interesting to see public health professionals tackling injury prevention throughout the County.

After my experience in the public health offices, I can definitely see myself working in the field. It is important to me to be surrounded by coworkers and colleagues who want to make a positive impact on the lives of people, and that desire to create a better community for everyone was clearly evident in the work I saw being done at Public Health. The time you spent with me has had a great impact on my professional development and will help me to make better informed decisions as I finish my graduate education and pursue my chosen career. Thanks again.

~Christopher Discolo, Occidental College, Class of 2015



Christina del Alma, Margo Harris, Raquel Loyola, Jeannette McCarty, Lori Peterson, Shary Robinson, and Jodi Warren, Washington State Immunization Information System (formerly Child Profile)

These staff members have done an amazing job of manually resolving over 25,000 duplicate patient records in our system over the past 3 months. In late November 2012, we had 30,000 records needing review and resolution, and, as of late February, we have fewer than 5,000 remaining.

This is time-consuming, detail-oriented, and important work — once records are resolved, providers can access their patients' records when they need them, the data in the system is more accurate, and parents can receive our weekly health and safety mailings as their children's records are available to be selected. Thanks to each of you for the collective and persistent effort, especially as we are stretched thinner than ever to accomplish our work — it's greatly appreciated!

~Denise Hawthorne, MPA, Operations Manager

Wastewater Program staff

My deepest and most sincere thanks to your department for your tremendous help with my permit. Receiving an approval in the mail this week has put me in seventh heaven!

The effect of all your work has had an enormous impact on the success of my home building project. The ability to obtain the approval and move on is absolutely crucial for my success.

If all government structures worked as well as your department does, our country would be able to quickly overcome the difficulties it has been experiencing.

Thank you very much for your excellent performance, dedication, and commitment to your work.

~A satisfied customer

HealthBeat submission guidelines

Do you have an item for HealthBeat?

Please follow these guidelines:

- HealthBeat is published once a month.
- Submissions are due on the 3rd Friday of each month for inclusion in the next HealthBeat issue.
- Articles should be 200 to 400 words.
- Please include photos, if possible, when submitting an article. All photos should have captions.
- All acronyms should be spelled out the first time they are used in your article, and use of technical or job-related jargon should be kept to a minimum so that all Public Health employees can enjoy your article.
- Please let us know how you would like your byline to read when submitting an article.
- The Kudos section is a showcase for special recognition and appreciation of work done by Public Health employees. Submissions should highlight instances where an individual went well 'above and beyond' his/her normal duties.
- Submissions should be relevant to Public Health staff and consistent with the [King County Ethics Code](#). For example, items promoting personal gain or inappropriate political advocacy cannot be published. Contact Julia Cordero if you are unsure of the appropriateness of your topic.
- Program supervisors are responsible for submissions (including Kudos) from their programs. Staff items should be forwarded to the supervisor for review, approval, and submission.
- We reserve the right to edit submissions as needed for inclusion in the HealthBeat.
- Send submissions via email to [Julia Cordero](#) (206-263-8798). Items can also be mailed to Julia at Office of the Director, 401 5th Avenue, Suite 1300, Seattle, WA 98104 or to inter-office mailstop CNK-PH-1300.

We appreciate your contributions!